

MEAT COULD COST MORE

MELBOURNE'S meat prices could rise even further, vice-president of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation, Mr R. W. Day, said yesterday.

Butchers were being forced to pass on the increasing costs of carcasses to consumers, he said.

"In the last fortnight, prices at Newmarket sales have increased 33 per cent for lamb and 25 per cent for beef and mutton," he said.

"The butcher is not increasing his profit margin at all."

The president of the Victorian branch of the Australian Primary Producers' Union, Mr A. B. Wood, said: "The meat situation is going to be rather grim as far as the consumer is concerned."

Butchers had not brought their prices down when stock was being sold cheaply on the market, he said.

"Even now, butchers are charging more than they should."

Mr Day added, "Prices still compare favorably with this time last year."

He said some butchers had increased their prices in the last week.

"Others who have either not increased or partially increased their prices might follow this week."

It all depended on the number of stock being sold at Newmarket sales, and the prices they fetched, he said.

"An increased number of stock should bring prices down."